

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS
SHERMAN DIVISION**

The State of Texas, et al.,

Plaintiffs,

v.

Google LLC,

Defendant.

Case No. 4:20-cv-00957-SDJ

Hon. Sean D. Jordan

PLAINTIFF STATES' UNOPPOSED MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE UNDER SEAL

The Plaintiff States (“The States”) respectfully move to seal their Motion for *In Camera* Review in Response to the Court’s Order [Dkt. 776] (“the Motion”) and the exhibits thereto (“Exhibits”), to be filed later today. Defendant Google LLC (“Google”) does not oppose.

I. LEGAL STANDARD

While the “public’s right of access to judicial proceedings is fundamental” and creates a default presumption “that judicial records should not be sealed,” *Binh Hoa Le v. Exeter Fin. Corp.*, 990 F.3d 410, 418-19 (5th Cir. 2021), this right of access “is not absolute.” *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978). Courts have properly limited the public’s right of access to protect “sources of business information that might harm a litigant’s competitive standing.” *Nixon*, 435 U.S. at 598. In deciding whether to allow public access to judicial records, the Court must exercise its discretion “in light of the relevant facts and circumstances of the particular case,” balancing “the public’s common law right of access against the interests favoring nondisclosure.” *Vantage Health Plan, Inc. v. Willis-Knighton Med. Ctr.*, 913 F.3d 443, 450 (5th

Cir. 2019) (quoting *Nixon*, 435 U.S. at 599, and *S.E.C. v. Van Waeyenberghe*, 990 F.2d 845, 848 (5th Cir. 1993)).

II. ARGUMENT

The States, with Google’s consent, request to file under seal their Motion for *In Camera* Review in Response to the Court’s Order [Dkt. 776] and all exhibits attached thereto because they contain references to documents and depositions that Google has stated contained non-public, highly sensitive commercial information that, if disclosed publicly, may cause Google competitive harm. Examples of such documents include depositions, documents, and data produced in this case as Confidential and/or Highly Confidential – Attorneys’ Eyes Only. On Thursday January 23, 2025, the Parties met and conferred regarding this unopposed Motion.

Courts routinely recognize that the interest in nondisclosure of sensitive commercial information outweighs the public’s right of access to court records. *See, e.g., Nixon*, 435 U.S. at 598 (“[C]ourts have refused to permit their files to serve . . . as sources of business information that might harm a litigant’s competitive standing.”).

Here, the States’ Motion and Exhibits contain data including the use of chat communications, specific communications by Google employees and executives, internal data from Google, and depositions pertaining thereto. The States’ Motion and Exhibits further contain expert reports and depositions describing such documents and depositions.

Consistent with Local Rule CV-5, if permitted to file the Motion and Exhibits under seal, the States will work with Google to file a redacted version—with as limited reductions as possible—of the above-referenced documents within seven (7) days.

III. CONCLUSION

For these reasons, the States respectfully move the Court for an order to file under seal the Motion and Exhibits.

DATED: January 28, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ W. Mark Lanier

W. Mark Lanier

Mark.Lanier@LanierLawFirm.com

Alex J. Brown

Alex.Brown@LanierLawFirm.com

Zeke DeRose III

Zeke.Derose@LanierLawFirm.com

Jonathan P. Wilkerson

Jonathan.Wilkerson@LanierLawFirm.com

10940 W. Sam Houston Pkwy N.

Suite 100

Houston, TX 77064

(713) 659-5200

THE LANIER LAW FIRM, PLLC

/s/ Ashley Keller

Ashley Keller

ack@kellerpostman.com

Kiran N. Bhat

kiran.bhat@kellerpostman.com

2333 Ponce De Leon Boulevard

Suite R-240

Coral Gables, Florida 33134

(833) 633-0118

Zina Bash (Bar No. 24067505)

zina.bash@kellerpostman.com

111 Congress Avenue, Suite 500

Austin, TX 78701

(512) 690-0990

/s/ Noah S. Heinz

Noah S. Heinz

noah.heinz@kellerpostman.com

1101 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Suite 1100

Washington, DC 20036

(202) 918-1123

KELLER POSTMAN LLC

Counsel for Texas, Idaho, Louisiana (The Lanier Law Firm only), Indiana, Mississippi, North Dakota, South Carolina, and South Dakota

Submitted on behalf of all Plaintiff States

NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT US LLP

Joseph M. Graham, Jr.

joseph.graham@nortonrosefulbright.com

Geraldine Young

geraldine.young@nortonrosefulbright.com

1550 Lamar Street, Suite 2000

Houston, Texas 77010

(713) 651-5151

Marc B. Collier

Marc.Collier@nortonrosefulbright.com

98 San Jacinto Blvd., Suite 1100

Austin, Texas 78701

(512) 474-5201

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF TEXAS

KEN PAXTON
Attorney General

/s/ James R. Lloyd

Brent Webster, First Assistant Attorney General of Texas

Brent.Webster@oag.texas.gov

James R. Lloyd, Deputy Attorney General for Civil Litigation

James.Lloyd@oag.texas.gov

State of Texas, Office of the Attorney General

P.O. Box 12548

Austin, TX 78711-2548

(512) 936-1674

Attorneys for Plaintiff State of Texas

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF ALASKA:

TREG TAYLOR
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: /s/ Jeff Pickett

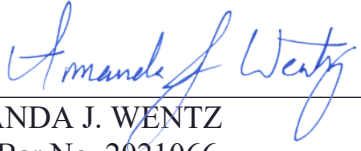
Jeff Pickett

Senior Assistant Attorney General, Special Litigation Section
jeff.pickett@alaska.gov

Attorney for Plaintiff State of Alaska

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF ARKANSAS:

TIM GRIFFIN
ATTORNEY GENERAL

By: 
AMANDA J. WENTZ
Ark. Bar No. 2021066
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Arkansas Attorney General
323 Center Street, Suite 200
Little Rock, AR 72201
(501) 682-1178
Amanda.Wentz@ArkansasAG.gov

Attorney for Plaintiff State of Arkansas

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF FLORIDA:

JOHN GUARD, Acting Attorney General

/s/ Lee Istrail

LEE ISTRAIL, Assistant Attorney General

FL Bar No. 119216

LIZABETH A. BRADY, Director, Antitrust Division

R. SCOTT PALMER, Special Counsel and Chief of Complex Enforcement

ANDREW BUTLER, Assistant Attorney General

CHRISTOPHER KNIGHT, Assistant Attorney General

Office of the Attorney General, State of Florida

PL-01 The Capitol

Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Phone: 850-414-3300

Email: scott.palmer@myfloridalegal.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff State of Florida

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF IDAHO:

RAÚL R. LABRADOR
Attorney General

/s/ John K. Olson

John K. Olson, Deputy Attorney General

Consumer Protection Division Office of the Attorney General
954 W. Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0010
Telephone: (208) 334-2424 john.olson@ag.idaho.gov

Attorneys for Plaintiff State of Idaho

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF INDIANA:

THEODORE E. ROKITA

Attorney General

/s/ Jesse J. Moore

Jesse J. Moore

Deputy Attorney General – Consumer Litigation

302 W. Washington St.

IGCS - 5th Floor

Indianapolis, IN 46204-2770

Phone: (317) 234-1479

Fax: (317) 232-7979

Email: jesse.moore@atg.in.gov

Attorneys for Plaintiff State of Indiana

FOR PLAINTIFF COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY:

RUSSELL COLEMAN
Attorney General

/s/ Philip R. Heleringer

Christian J. Lewis, Commissioner of the Office of Consumer Protection
christian.lewis@ky.gov

Philip R. Heleringer, Executive Director of the Office of Consumer Protection
philip.heleringer@ky.gov

Jonathan E. Farmer, Deputy Executive Director of the Office of Consumer Protection
jonathan.farmer@ky.gov

Office of the Attorney General

Commonwealth of Kentucky

1024 Capital Center Drive, Suite 200

Frankfort, Kentucky 40601

Tel: 502-696-5300

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth of Kentucky

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF LOUISIANA:

By: /s/ Patrick Voelker

Liz Murrill, Attorney General
Michael Dupree, Assistant Attorney General
Patrick Voelker, Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General, State of Louisiana
Public Protection Division
1885 North Third St.
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802
(225) 326-6400
voelkerp@ag.louisiana.gov

s/ James R. Dugan, II

James R. Dugan, II (*pro hac vice*)
TerriAnne Benedetto (*pro hac vice*)
The Dugan Law Firm
365 Canal Street
One Canal Place, Suite 1000
New Orleans, LA 70130
PH: (504) 648-0180
FX: (504) 649-0181
EM: jdugan@dugan-lawfirm.com
tbenedetto@dugan-lawfirm.com

James Williams
CHEHARDY SHERMAN WILLIAM, LLP
Galleria Boulevard, Suite 1100
Metairie, LA 70001
PH: (504) 833-5600
FX: (504) 833-8080
EM: jmw@chehardy.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff State of Louisiana

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF MISSISSIPPI:

LYNN FITCH, ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

By: /s/ Garrett S. Mascagni

Garrett S. Mascagni

Special Assistant Attorney General

Consumer Protection Division

Mississippi Attorney General's Office

Post Office Box 220

Jackson, Mississippi 39205

Telephone: 601-359-4223

Fax: 601-359-4231

Garrett.Mascagni@ago.ms.gov

Attorney for Plaintiff State of Mississippi

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF MISSOURI:

ANDREW BAILEY

Attorney General

/s/ Michael Schwalbert

Michael.Schwalbert@ago.mo.gov

Missouri Attorney General's Office

815 Olive St.

Suite 200

St. Louis, MO 63101

Tel: 314-340-7888

Attorneys for Plaintiff State of Missouri

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF MONTANA:

AUSTIN KNUDSEN
Montana Attorney General

/s/ Anna Schneider

Anna Schneider
Montana Attorney General's Office
P.O. Box 200151
Helena, MT 59620-0151
Phone: (406) 444-4500
Fax: (406) 442-1894 Anna.Schneider@mt.gov

/s/ Charles J. Cooper

Charles J. Cooper
ccooper@cooperkirk.com
David H. Thompson
dthompson@cooperkirk.com
Brian W. Barnes
bbarnes@cooperkirk.com
Harold S. Reeves
hreeves@cooperkirk.com
COOPER & KIRK PLLC
1523 New Hampshire Avenue, NW
Washington DC 20036
Phone: (202) 220-9620
Fax: (202) 220-9601

Attorneys for Plaintiff State of Montana

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF NEVADA:

AARON D. FORD
Attorney General
ERNEST D. FIGUEROA
Consumer Advocate

/s/ Michelle C. Badorine

Michelle C. Badorine, Senior Deputy Attorney General

MNewman@ag.nv.gov

Lucas J. Tucker (NV Bar No. 10252) Senior Deputy Attorney General LTucker@ag.nv.gov

Office of the Nevada Attorney General

100 N. Carson St.

Carson City, Nevada 89701 Tel: (775) 684-1100

Attorneys for Plaintiff State of Nevada

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA:

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA

Drew H. Wrigley
Attorney General

By: /s/ Elin S. Alm

Elin S. Alm, ND ID 05924

Assistant Attorneys General

Consumer Protection & Antitrust Division

Office of Attorney General of North Dakota

1720 Burlington Drive, Suite C, Bismarck, ND 58503-7736

(701) 328-5570

(701) 328-5568 (fax)

ealm@nd.gov

Attorneys for Plaintiff State of North Dakota

FOR PLAINTIFF COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO:

/s/ Domingo Emanuelli-Hernández

Domingo Emanuelli-Hernández Attorney General

Thaizza Rodríguez Pagán Assistant Attorney General PR Bar No. 17177

P.O. Box 9020192

San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902-0192 Tel: (787) 721-2900, ext. 1201, 1204

trodriguez@justicia.pr.gov

Kyle G. Bates

HAUSFELD LLP

600 Montgomery Street, Suite 3200

San Francisco, CA 94111

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth of Puerto Rico

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA:

ALAN WILSON
Attorney General

/s/ Mary Frances Jowers

Mary Frances Jowers
Assistant Deputy Attorney General
W. Jeffrey Young
Chief Deputy Attorney General
C. Havird Jones, Jr.
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General
South Carolina Attorney General's Office
P.O. Box 11549
Columbia, South Carolina 29211-1549 Phone: 803-734-5855
Email: mjowers@scag.gov

Charlie Condon
Charlie Condon Law Firm, LLC 880 Johnnie Dodds Blvd, Suite 1 Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
Phone: 843-884-8146
Email: charlie@charliecondon.com

James R. Dugan, II (*pro hac vice*) The Dugan Law Firm
365 Canal Street
One Canal Place, Suite 1000 New Orleans, LA 70130 Phone: (504) 648-0180
Email: jdugan@dugan-lawfirm.com

Attorneys for Plaintiff State of South Carolina

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

MARTY JACKLEY
Attorney General

/s/ Jonathan Van Patten

Jonathan Van Patten
Assistant Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
1302 E. Highway 14, Suite 1
Pierre, SD 57501
Tel: 605-773-3215
jonathan.vanpatten@state.sd.us

Attorney for Plaintiff State of South Dakota

FOR PLAINTIFF STATE OF UTAH:

Derek Brown
Attorney General of Utah

/s/ Matthew Michaloski

Matthew Michaloski
Assistant Attorney General
Marie W.L. Martin
Deputy Division Director
160 East 300 South, 5th Floor
P.O. Box 140811
Salt Lake City, UT 84114
mmichaloski@agutah.gov
Telephone: (801) 440-9825

*Attorneys for Plaintiff State of Utah and
as counsel for the Utah Division of Consumer Protection*

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that, on January 28, 2025, this document was filed electronically in compliance with Local Rule CV-5(a) and served on all counsel who have consented to electronic service, per Local Rule CV-5(a)(3)(A).

/s/ Marc B. Collier
Marc B. Collier

CERTIFICATE OF CONFERENCE

I certify that counsel has complied with the meet and confer requirement in Local Rule CV-7(h), and that this motion is unopposed.

/s/ Marc B. Collier
Marc B. Collier